

## Research Project Example

For this assignment you have been asked to research various topics relating to the novels that we are reading. There are many reasons one would undertake such a project:

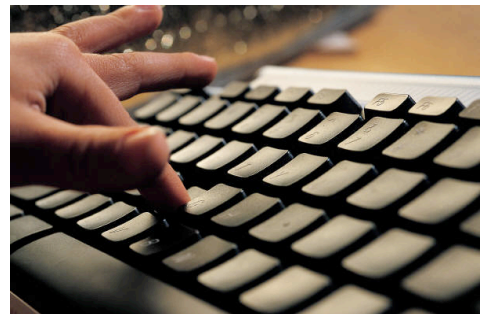
1. Gain an understanding of what arguments have been made about the novel
2. Have examples of scholarly articles that relate to the novel in question
3. Practice summary/analysis writing and standard research documentation (MLA format).
4. Reinforce research skills as discussed in Everyday Writer
5. Practice accessing and utilizing library databases and scholarly journals
6. Hone research skills and learn shortcuts to academic research

Basically, in writing terms, this project is considered an annotated bibliography. This means that it is an expanded works cited page. The expansion comes from paragraphs of summary, analysis and possible application of the article.

An annotation is a brief description of a work such as an article, chapter of a book, book, Web site, or movie. An annotation attempts to give enough information to make a decision as to whether or not to read the complete work. Annotations may be descriptive or critical.

### What an annotation should include:

- Complete bibliographic information (a properly formatted MLA works cited page).
- Some or all of the following:
  - Information to explain the authority and/or qualifications of the author. For example: Dr. William Smith, a history professor at XYZ University, based his book on twenty years of research.
  - Scope and main purpose of the work.
  - Any biases that you detect.
  - Intended audience and level of reading difficulty.
  - The relationship, if any, to other works in the area of study.
  - A summary comment, e.g., "A popular account directed at educated adults."
  - A statement on how one might utilize such a work in their own research
- The annotation should be about 50 to 150 words.



## Sample Descriptive Annotation :

London, Herbert. "Five Myths of the Television Age." *Television Quarterly* 10 (1) Spring 1982: 81-89.

Herbert London, the Dean of Journalism at New York University and author of several books and articles, explains how television contradicts five commonly believed ideas. He uses specific examples of events seen on television, such as the assassination of John Kennedy, to illustrate his points. His examples have been selected to contradict such truisms as: "seeing is believing"; "a picture is worth a thousand words"; and "satisfaction is its own reward." London uses logical arguments to support his ideas which are his personal opinion. He doesn't refer to any previous works on the topic. London's style and vocabulary would make the article of interest to any reader.

## Formatting the Project:

Research project formatting should follow standard Modern Languages Association guidelines. This includes a header with last name & page number; a heading with your name, the professor's name, the class, and the date; and a title center-aligned. See your Everyday Writer for MLA formatting or one of the various online resources available to you.

Below is a formatting skeleton for your project:

Last Name 1
Name
Instructor's Name
Class
Date (DD Month YYYY)
Research Project: <u>Winesburg, Ohio</u> Gender Articles
Last name, First name. "Title of the essay/article." <u>Title of the book: Subtitle of the book</u> . Ed. First name Last name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pg.-Pg.
Three to six sentences – One or two sentences summarizing the argument and/or analysis presented by the resource; one or two sentences analyzing the article and stating an analysis of the argument/author's validity/credibility; one or two sentences stating an evaluation of how you plan to utilize the resource. Being exact, precise and brief is harder than writing chapters.
Last name, First name. "Title of Web article." <u>Title of Webpage</u> . Date of Update. Organization of affiliation. Date of access. <URL>.
Annotation here.